

2 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

62-56

SUBJECT : Request for Assistance in Connection with the Retirement of [redacted]

1. This memorandum contains a request for assistance (summarized in paragraph 10) in persuading the Army to permit [redacted] to retire.

2. As a result of his having been concerned with military applications of psychochemicals and his having a PhD in bacteriology, [redacted] was first assigned from the Chemical Corps to TSD in July 1956. Early in 1959 a one-year extension to July 1960 was requested and approved. Again, early in 1960 a further eighteen-month extension was requested and approved [redacted] could remain with the Agency until his retirement from the Army in January 1962. By that date [redacted] who is 47 years old, will have completed 20 years of active Federal duty and under Army regulations is permitted to request retirement from active duty at the discretion of the Secretary of the Army.

3. Before the Chemical Corps agreed to the final eighteen-month extension, [redacted] was required to put in writing that he would retire in January 1962. Consequently, late in 1961 the Agency's Mobilization and Military Personnel Division rechecked current Army policy, and [redacted] was informed that he would be permitted to retire. He requested such retirement on 20 November 1961. Arrangements for his final physical examination were made, and it was taken shortly thereafter.

4. On 26 December 1961 [redacted] received a notice dated 12 December from the Adjutant General that his request for permission to retire had been denied. Judicious unofficial inquiry indicates that this change in policy had been caused by recent complaints by reactivated reserve units that they had been called up while regular officers were being permitted to retire. These same inquiries indicate that this policy might possibly be relaxed by next summer or fall if the complaints have

TSD

subsided. In the meantime since the Chemical Corps had taken it for granted that [] would retire, no assignment is contemplated for him which will make use of his very unusual talents, and I understand that reassignment orders cannot be prepared much before June of this year.

5. TSD is far more interested in having [] retire rather than continue on active duty in his present assignment with us. During the past many years TSD has only partially solved the problem of providing a truly effective and secure capability in covert chemical and biological warfare. The main obstacle has been the unavailability of a non-governmental facility with an awareness of the operational realities that make this field so delicate and sensitive. [] represents the key figure in our long-range plans for solving this problem.

6. In anticipation of his change of status, TSD has for some time planned to use [] in his retired status. His knowledge and experience in the fields of covert chemical and biological warfare and in the application of biological and biochemical principles to covert operations in general are unique. While we have a number of contractors working for us in these areas, we have long felt that their management must be guided by someone apparently unconnected with the Government who is thoroughly familiar with the problems and requirements of the covert operator. It has been our intention to have [] enter the employment of one of our covert contractors []

7. In view of [] long career and experience in these fields, it would be perfectly normal for him to join such a group after retirement. The nature of the group will permit him to consult and advise other firms working for us under covert contracts without revealing our interests to uncleared personnel. At present these other covert contracts are difficult to supervise since both Government and Agency sterility must be strictly maintained. So long as [] on active duty, his involvement with these contractors inevitably indicates that their work is sponsored by the military.

8. For example, to monitor our work []

[] taking care to visit the plant when it is certain that no visitors who are aware of his active duty Army status will be present. Contacts are limited to cleared personnel, and he must

[redacted]
[redacted] it is awkward and inefficient for him to be limited in his contacts to a small number of company employees.

[redacted]

10. In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the Secretary of the Army be approached and requested to permit the retirement of [redacted] as of 31 January 1962, in the broadest interest of the U. S. Government. I understand that the individual to be contacted is Lieutenant General R. L. Vittrup, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Room 2E736 Pentagon, extension 56003. General Vittrup has not yet been approached on this matter and presumably is unaware of the situation.

C. V. S. ROOSEVELT
Chief, DD/P/TSD

cc: DD/P
COPS
C/OPSER
MMPD

23 January 1961

Original of attached memorandum and a copy of [] request of 18 January 1962 to Hqs, U. S. Army, subject: Voluntary Retirement, returned to Technical Services Division, by hand, with following handwritten by DDCI:

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"M. R. :

Called Lt. General Vittrup this date, explained situation to him and request reconsideration by the Army. He appeared sympathetic and asked me only if this were an official CIA request rather than influence sought by the officer. I assured him the former is the case. I offered to put this request in writing but said we'd rather not for security reasons. He did not call for any written request.

/s/ CPC
DDCI
1/23/62